Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

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Committee against Torture
Fifty-third session

Summary record of the first part (public)* of the 1288th meeting
Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Friday, 28 November 2014, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Grossman

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* The summary record of the second part (closed) of the meeting appears as document CAT/C/SR.1288/Add.1.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Organizational and other matters

1. **The Chairperson** said that the Committee would adopt the forthcoming lists of issues and lists of issues prior to reporting at its fifty-fourth session in April and May 2015, and had appointed rapporteurs for those lists. The Committee had decided that it would consider the periodic reports of Slovakia and Switzerland at its fifty-fifth session in July and August 2015, and those of Austria, Azerbaijan, China, Denmark, Jordan and Liechtenstein, as well as the initial report of Iraq, at its fifty-sixth session in November 2015. The Committee had yet to decide on the length of the fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions.

2. At its forthcoming session, the Committee would continue to hold dialogues with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and with States parties. The Committee had decided to invite the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture for a meeting to discuss the valuable work of the Fund and to enhance cooperation with it in the light of the Committee's general comment No. 3 (2012) on the implementation of article 14 by States parties. The Committee would also receive a briefing on the right to rehabilitation. In addition, it would hold public and closed meetings with representatives of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in order to discuss cooperation and coordination between the two bodies.

3. At the current session, the Committee had held a two-day retreat, which had provided an excellent opportunity to discuss working methods and ways in which the Committee could help States parties to improve their implementation of the Convention. He thanked the Committee members for their constructive contributions and for the collegial spirit in which the work had been conducted. He also thanked the secretariat for its invaluable support in the preparations for the retreat.

4. The Committee had also celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention, with contributions from Committee members, States parties and NGOs. The focus of the celebration had been the dual theme of universal ratification and implementation of the provisions of the Convention.

5. He thanked the NGOs that had contributed to the work of the Committee during the current session and for the efforts that they made to ensure that the public sessions of the Committee were webcast.

The public part of the meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.